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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 19 October 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Milan Panic, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 19 October 1992 from the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

Winter is rapidly approaching and there is good reason to be concerned about maintaining an adequate flow of relief supplies to Sarajevo. In winter, the Sarajevo airport is frequently closed by fog, and secondary roads in Bosnia are often impassable. Fully conscious of this, my Government wishes to renew and refine its previous offer of assisting in the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Sarajevo and other points in Bosnia.

Yugoslavia is prepared to offer the full and free use of the facilities of Belgrade International Airport to the United Nations for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Sarajevo. Moreover, we are prepared to offer an alternative airfield and its logistical facilities at Batajnica military airfield near Belgrade.

Specifically, we are prepared to have UNPROFOR technical, security and logistical support teams stationed and housed at Belgrade International Airport and at the Batajnica military airfield to ensure round-the-clock relief supply operations. We are also prepared to help offset the costs to the United Nations and relief organizations by in-kind contributions to their support while they are in Belgrade.

In addition, we are prepared to provide logistical support for ground transportation from Belgrade to Sarajevo and other points in Bosnia. We will provide 100 heavy trucks with drivers for this purpose and the labour for unloading and warehousing the supplies at the airports in Belgrade and for loading the trucks for onward surface shipment to Bosnia.

Further, we will provide security for the truck convoys within Yugoslavia. We will also use our good offices to seek to obtain assurances from the Bosnia Serbian authorities for security for the truck convoys as they pass through those areas controlled by the Bosnian Serbs.

In order to guard against diversion of the relief supplies, or allegations of such diversion, we would ask the United Nations and the participating international relief organizations to devise means of controlling the shipments en route and at every transfer point. We, of course, will cooperate in this in any way the United Nations desires. The important thing is to devise some system for avoiding diversion or the suspicion of diversion.

On 16 October, I informed Acting United States Secretary of State Eagleburger of my intention to discuss this proposal in Geneva. On 16 and 17 October, I did discuss the proposal in Geneva with Cyrus Vance, Lord Owen, Mrs. Sadako Ogata and Mr. Cornelio Somma'uga. They all greeted the proposal

favourably, and I, therefore, announced it publicly. Please consider it a formal offer of my Government, which we are prepared to implement rapidly as soon as it is accepted by the United Nations.

Despite the hardships imposed upon them by the economic sanctions of the United Nations, the people of Yugoslavia wish to cooperate in delivering humanitarian supplies to those who are suffering even greater hardship. We sincerely hope that this demonstration of humanitarian cooperation by the people of Yugoslavia will promote the cause of peace in the Balkans, which you are working so actively to achieve.

(Signed) Milan PANIC